

May 4, 2012

Chairman Dave Camp
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp:

On behalf of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, I urge you to reinstate the expired charitable giving tax incentives (known as “extenders”), which support the ability of charities to provide programs and services that assist individuals and families and benefit communities across the country.

Millions are served by the essential work of public charities, which is made possible in part by the charitable giving incentives contained in the extenders package. These include provisions that encourage donations of food to help those in need, computers to help people who are unemployed look for work and books to economically disadvantaged children. Other provisions encourage the rollover of individual retirement account funds to charities, and the donation of land conservation easements to preserve open spaces for generations to come.

All of these incentives, along with the rest of the tax extenders package, expired at the end of 2011, cutting off this important stream of funding to many charities across the country at the same time they have seen demands for their help increase. Donors need to use these charitable incentives to make larger contributions. Our constituency here in California depends on the programs and services charities provide throughout the year – not just at tax time – and charitable organizations require resources on a year-round basis. The people we serve cannot wait for Congress to reinstate these provisions until the end of this year or next.

We respectfully ask that these incentives be reinstated immediately, so that the donors and the charitable organizations we serve do not experience any more uncertainty or disruption of their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Emmett D. Carson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emmett" being more prominent and the last name "Carson" following in a similar style.

Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D.
CEO and President

Cc: House Committee on Ways and Means